

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A cast-cutter as claimed in claim 68, wherein the cutting ~~means~~ assembly is adapted for removing a strip of material from the cast.

3. – 4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Amended) A cast-cutter as claimed in claim 68, wherein said first portion and protection member are releasably coupled to the housing.

6. – 30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A cast-cutter as claimed in claim 68, wherein a leading edge of the second portion of the cutting ~~means~~ assembly is chamfered.

32. (Previously Amended) A cast-cutter as claimed in claim 68, wherein the first portion defines an aperture which is chamfered at one side.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A cast-cutter as claimed in claim 68, wherein said cutting assembly is adapted to remove continuous strips of material from a cast and the first portion of the cutting ~~means~~ assembly comprises a strip exit to allow a strip of the cast which is being removed to pass therethrough.

35. (Previously Presented) A cast-cutter as claimed in claim 34, wherein the strip exit comprises tapered sides, which taper outwards, away from the aperture of the first portion.

36. - 67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) A cast-cutter for use in removing a cast from a patient, the cast-cutter comprising:

a housing;

a protection member rigidly fixed to said housing via a connection member, one end of said connection member integrally formed with said protection member and the other end of the connection member coupled to said housing, said protection member comprising a substantially planar skin-contact surface; wherein said skin-contact surface is wider than said connection member in a direction substantially perpendicular to a cutting plane

a cutting assembly ~~extending from said housing and~~ configured to cut substantially perpendicularly along the cutting plane through a cast arranged in a cast plane, ~~the cast plane substantially perpendicular to the cutting plane,~~ said cutting assembly comprising:

a stationary first portion integrally formed with said protection member ~~rigidly affixed to said housing during operation,~~ and

a moveable second portion, supported for pivotal motion relative to the first portion,

wherein each portion comprises a single cutting edge configured to cooperate to cut along ~~[[a]] the common cutting plane which is aligned substantially perpendicularly with the cast plane;~~

~~said stationary portion including a~~ protection member positioned on one side of the cast plane to be positioned between the cast being operated upon by the cutting assembly and a patient to protect the skin of the patient; and

an electric drive disposed within said housing and drivingly connected to said second portion to pivot said second portion relative to said first portion through an arcuate path which moves the single cutting edge of the second portion through the cast plane from one side thereof and causes a cast positioned between the cutting edges of the first and second portions in the cast plane to be pressed against the single cutting edge of the stationary first portion, such that the respective single cutting edges of the first and second portions effect cutting through the cast plane from opposing sides by a shearing action.

69. – 74. (Canceled)

75. (New) The cast-cutter of claim 68, wherein the protection member further comprises an integral front guard, said front guard extending across the cutting plane, such that the stationary portion cutting edge is located between the front guard and the connection member.

76. (New) The cast-cutter of claim 68, wherein the protection member further comprises a profiled nose, said profiled nose comprising an upper tapered surface proximal to the cast plane.

77. (New) The cast-cutter of claim 72, wherein the profiled nose further comprises a lower tapered surface distal from the cast plane.